

The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."

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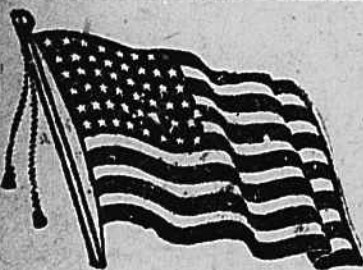
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state the fact and give name and residence and a messenger
will deliver a paper to your door at once. There is no
charge to the subscriber for this service.

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 18, 1917.



THE GAS QUESTION.

ONE thing is clear about the gas situation: the people
of West Virginia must act together and act vigor-
ously if they are to save the gas for themselves and
preserve the state from an industrial set back from which
it would not recover during the lifetime of any one now
doing business here.

That being true the action taken yesterday by the di-
rectors of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce is highly im-
portant because it aims to crystallize public opinion in this
section of the state in favor of positive action taken without
unnecessary delay.

It seems to this newspaper that at a time when West
Virginia people are suffering the thing to do is to act, and
let the corporations whose policies discriminate against
the people of this state in favor of the people of other states
defend themselves in the best way they can.

The matter of government contracts is nothing more than
a red herring drawn across the trail. There probably are
as many government contracts dependent upon gas for their
completion in this state as there are in Pennsylvania. More-
over if it becomes merely a question of these contracts, why
not compel the gas exporting companies to do their discrim-
inating on the other side of the state line? There is enough
gas for the domestic consumer and the government contract
abroad too if all the available resources of the big com-
panies are brought into play.

COAL AND TRANSPORTATION.

AS was to have been expected the letter which President
Wheelwright, of the Consolidation Coal company,
wrote to the Governors, United States Senators,
Representatives in Congress and Fuel administrators of
the states in which the Consolidation has mines has attract-
ed considerable attention and will do much to get the coal
trade's side of the fuel situation before the official of the
government who are now struggling with the transportation
and fuel problems and before the general public.

An idea of just how badly something that would attract
general attention to these things was needed is furnished by
an editorial in the Baltimore Sun which, while it heartily
endorses all that Mr. Wheelwright said about the part that
the transportation collapse has played in the fuel crisis,
jumps to the conclusion that the shortage of coal cars is a
new and recent development. Says The Sun

Where the blame for this situation lies no
one without full knowledge of the facts can
say. It may lie with the railroads, or with the
Fuel Administration, or with the priority offi-
cials. If the railroads are carrying other
classes of freight which yield them larger pro-
fits in preference to coal; if, as Judge McChord
charges, the element of self-interest in the rail-
road operators prevents efficiency, then the
fault is with the railroads. If the Fuel Ad-
ministration has diverted the coal from essential
to non-essential industries, the fault is with it.
If the priority officials have given less neces-
sary commodities preference over coal, then
the fault is theirs. No one unacquainted with
the full facts can know. But official Washing-
ton can know, and it should act accordingly.
The probability is that the major cause of

the trouble is the failure to give coal the right
of way over the railroad lines in preference to
less necessary commodities.

There never will be any worth while clearing up of the
transportation difficulties of the coal industry until it is re-
cognized everywhere that the coal shortage has continued for
about two years and that most of the time there were
enough open top cars in the country to take care of the coal
trade if they had been kept in that trade. There would have
been some little improvement in the present situation if the
railroads had met the coal administration half way in its ef-
forts to give preference to coal, and it may be that the Coal
Administration has not acted with the vigor that it should
have displayed with regard to cutting off fuel supplies to
consumers engaged in non-essential industries, but the long
continued and studied neglect of the coal trade is the great
outstanding trouble and a remedy must be found for it be-
fore coal mining can stand on its own feet and show what it
is capable of doing in the way of producing coal.

For two years there has been a scarcity of cars at the
mine mouths of all but a few of the important coal mining
districts of the country. In some few fields the mines have
been favored above the mines of other fields, the mines along
the Baltimore & Ohio in the Pittsburgh field for instance,
but as a general proposition the open top cars which should
have been operated steadily in the coal trade were carrying
brick, or steel bars and billets and doing other things that
they should not have been doing at a time when the basis of
all industrial activity in the country was being demoralized
by the lack of transportation facilities. That is the thing we
will have to drive home before coal can get its rights from
transportation.

THE RED CROSS DRIVE.

MRS. ROBINSON'S detailed report of the recent
Red Cross membership campaign was an entirely
fitting local observation of the opening of the nation
wide Red Cross Membership week. Fairmont's drive was
made a few weeks in advance of the general effort, and it
has been observed that if every community in the land does
as well as we did the national goal of ten million new
members will be greatly exceeded.

Fairmont's showing of a gain of 14,400 new members
is a splendid one, and the favorable impression created by
the large total is increased rather than diminished by a
study of the details of the report. Here and there is a
falling of accomplishment below the pledge which is hard
to understand, but disappointment over this soon disap-
pears in the feeling of gratification which the increases over
pledged occasion, for almost invariably they indicate that
interest in the Red Cross and the work it is doing is keenest
in the groups and organizations where interest may be ex-
pected to do the most good.

Every way the campaign's results are viewed they are
good and every one who had a hand in the movement, from
Mrs. Robinson, the chairman of the Membership Ex-
tension committee, J. M. Hartley, chairman of the Mem-
bership Campaign committee, and Mr. Postlewait, of the
National headquarters, down to the boys and girls who
hustled for new members, deserves to be heartily congrat-
ulated.

Canadian elections which were held yesterday were a
triumph for the Unionist party which is now in power
and which was on trial for its support of conscription
and other war policies. The result is another demon-
stration of the fact that the political party which op-
poses the national interest when the country is at war
plays a losing game.

Secretary of War Baker is reported to be unwilling
to discuss the purposes of the new war council which
he has set up in his department, the creation of which
will take some of the bureau chiefs out of posts which
they have held for many years and put new men in
their places. Very well, the main point is that there
is a change, and the country will not quarrel very much
over the details providing the new men in the old posts
show more appreciation of the size of the job the War
department has stacked up against.

More trouble in the ship building corporation. This
time Rear Admiral Harris, who was appointed general
manager about a month ago, has asked to be relieved
of duty and returned to his old post, and his request
will be complied with. Charles A. Plez, a Chicago civil
engineer and vice president of the fleet corporation,
will take the job in which so many men have failed.
Ship building is going on after a fashion, of course,
but the record we have made in this matter ought to
take out of us what conceit the events of the past few
years have left us.

The passage of the House of the Prohibition amend-
ment resolution puts the fight for nation wide prohibi-
tion in the final phase, but no man can predict what that
phase will be. By the terms of the resolution the states
must adopt it within seven years or the resolution is
without effect. The first effect of that will be to speed
up the effort to get the states to act and the old fight
will be renewed with all the old time intensity in the
states which have already adopted prohibition as a state
policy. While the war lasts the matter probably will not
attract any great amount of popular interest, but after
that it may develop into one of the most bitter struggles
since the settlement of the slavery question.

ed to do to help win the war.

University of Pittsburgh has drop-
ped Bernstein from the rolls.

Well, there is not much danger that
he will ever come back and apply for
admission.

There will be a lot of gentlemen on
the other side who used to get the
glad hand over here who will not want
to come back, and who would not be
comfortable if they did, after the big
doings are over.

What People Say and Some Side Remarks

Herschel Hamilton, a son of Charles
Hamilton, who was here a few days
last week from Hattiesburg, Miss.,
has been in the National Guard and
the regular army for two years now
and likes it very well. He remark-
ed:

"I figure that I have learned a
lot more in the army than I did
at school. I estimate that I have
gotten at least \$1,000 worth of
education in the time I have been
at it. Army life develops a man
physically and mentally."

Mr. Hamilton is a good soldier and
in the two years he has served there
has never been a mark against him.

Editorial Comment on Current Subjects

AWAY WITH PEANUT POLITICS.

From the Charleston Mail.
In an outburst of narrow partisan
zeal, The Gazette in an editorial en-
titled "Wanted—An Issue," endeavors
to read the Republican party out of
existence and to impute any criticism
it might make of government blun-
ders to lack of patriotism. For illus-
tration, these excerpts will suffice:
The minority party in Congress is
between the devil and the deep sea

If the Republican congressmen are
thought to be praising the govern-
ment they are thought to be praising
the Democrats, and if they criticize it
they are called pro-Germans.

The tariff issue is as dead as slav-
ery.
The partisan critic is
damned if he does and damned if he
don't.

It was not to be expected that the
local Democratic organ could rise to
the heights of the present occasion,
when, with a loyalty never before evi-
denced in any war in which the United
States had been engaged, the Republi-
cans are vigorously supporting the
government even though the manage-
ment of it is in the hands of the Dem-
ocrats. If Republican charity and
love of country unite for the present
to cast the veil over the Democratic
blunders, the flattering assumption
need not be entertained, much less

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

(BY CONDO)



boasted about, that these blunders are
not being catalogued against the time
when they will be dealt with as they
deserve.

It is true that there has been far
less criticism of the government by
the Republicans than has been the
case in Great Britain, in France, and
even in Germany. This is owing to
the admirable self-control of the Re-
publican party and its realization of
the necessity of first winning this war
which the Democratic leader promised
to spare us from—and therefore pay-
ing no heed to the urgent requests to
make preparations.

The Republicans will may direct at-
tention to that time in Congress when
the Democratic speaker of the House
arranged himself blatantly against
the President's program for the rais-
ing of a military force to prosecute
the war, when the Democratic House
leader, Kitchin, refused to lead for the
President and a Republican congress-
man, Representative Kahn, had to
take the places of Democrats who had
fallen both their country and the
President in the hour of his greatest
need. Other instances might be cited,
but they would be merely cumulative.

With the submergence of partisanship
unparalleled in the history of Ameri-
can politics, the Republicans have ral-
lied to the support of the country and
have given the Democrats an example
which they might follow with wisdom
and profit alike. It is to be noted
however, that that submergence of
partisan politics is both beyond the
comprehension and imitation of The
Gazette, or its politician owner, whose
only weapon of defense in case errors
of the administration should be point-
ed out, is the silly and insane cry of
"pro-German."

Likewise the flattering unctious
which The Gazette lays to its soul that
the "tariff is as dead as slavery," is
due for a rude awakening. Never be-
fore has the tariff assumed the im-
portance it will assume after the war,
not only in the United States but all
over Europe. Does any one suppose
that the nations of the world are go-
ing to spend billions and billions of
treasure and millions of lives defeat-
ing German militarism in the field to
surrender the fruits of the battle to
German industrialism, where the Ger-
man workmen will be mobilized and
driven in true Prussian fashion at
starvation wages and long hours, to



Grand-ma—Mother
or Sister

would enjoy a pair of our com-
fortable house slippers. We are
showing them in many colors
and styles.

\$1.25 to \$1.75
In fact, every member of the
family like slippers on Xmas
day and every day.

For Men \$1.25 to \$2.50.
For Boys and Girls 85c
to \$1.85.

Buy useful presents this
year. Footwear is the best.
Shurtlett and Welton's of
course.

The Walk-Over Boot Shop
Open Evenings Until After
Christmas.

Evening Chat

THE NEWEST CODE.

Don't eat meat on Tuesday.
Don't eat wheat on Wednesday.
Don't eat pork on Saturday.
Don't eat too much sugar any day.

Food has struck very deep in the
minds of housekeepers of the
housewives of Fairmont, Mannington,
Fairview and Farmington and is rap-
idly spreading to the country dis-
tricts. The idea is to reduce the
consumption of certain foods so that
they can be shipped to the allies of
the United States to keep men, wo-
men and children from starving.

Mannington has a board of stewards
at the First M. E. church which Rev.
Hyre D. Clark, the pastor, claims is
"perfect." He praised these faithful
workers in his sermon Sunday morn-
ing and declared that he had never
encountered or heard of its equal in
either Illinois or West Virginia,
where he has had charges. The
board so honored consists of C. C. Con-
man, secretary, W. R. Andrews, L. A.
Arnett, J. G. Atkinson, C. J. Beall,
F. W. Flowers, A. R. Conaway, T. E.
Eastman, Mrs. Walter Furber, J. H.
Haught, Mrs. Allie Hildreth, Harry
Lightfritz, Mrs. Olive Lancaster, J. T.
Roberts, C. O. Rymer, Jesse Shimp,
Miss Beryl Stewart, S. E. Taggart, D.
A. Ward, and George Weible.

"The same men lift collections in the
churches for year after year," de-
clared Rev. Hyre D. Clark, who was
urging that every member of a church
should be assigned to work. "When
one of these men die it is almost im-
possible to get someone to take his
place."

Rev. Hyre D. Clark was the first
graduate of the Fairmont State Nor-
mal school and taught in that insti-
tution for a time. He is recalled as a
hard student. He has continued to
develop until he is recognized today
as one of the most brainy men in the
conference.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARE FAIRMONT WOMEN
SLACKERS?

Fairmont, Dec. 15.—[Editor, The
West Virginian]—Four thousand men
called into the regular army from
Camp Lee with every evidence that
French off will soon be beneath their
feet, our daily papers beginning to
emblazon the names of our dead and
wounded on the Western front, and
only a pitiful handful of Fairmont
men responding to the Red Cross
call for surgical dressing workers.
Are the women of this town willing
that our boys should face German
bullets with no prospect of proper
care of their minuable wounds. Do

they expect the French, Italian and
British women to prepare the gauds
for the American soldier? If our wo-
men are relying on that then they are
indeed sadly mistaken.

It is absolutely and unequivocally
up to the American women to make
dressings for the American army and
it is work that positively must be
done by hands alone. No factory can
make gauze work, no machine can
accomplish this labor, it must be the
hands of Fairmont women, and Man-
nington women, and Morgantown and
so on all over the country or our men
ings to their credit! To the shame of
our city its women are offering ex-
cuses—in the summer it was raining,
in the fall it was house cleaning, and
now it is Christmas affairs. "Busi-
ness as Usual." England and Canada
tried it out and proved its failing.

Excuses will not go! Promises will
not do! What our army needs and
demands is action and results! Wake
up, Fairmont women and rally to the
Red Cross.

will pay for the neglect with their
very lives. It has been printed in
the newspapers that out of eleven
women of this city who promised to
be present in the room for gauze work
Thursday, only one responded for
promised labor. One called on the
telephone and said she would come
at four o'clock for an hour's work.

In the name of mercy and humanity
may we ask "Why?" Why must our
local women be coaxed and begged
and invited and lashed into this vital
service? During a Miss Lovejoy's
of instruction, her class of about
twenty made over five thousand
dressings. She has been gone over
two weeks. During that time one body
of workers which assembled in the
work room of evenings, have made
750 dressings, and all the rest of
the women of our city have 110 dress-

MIRRORS

French plate bevel
hand mirrors. Always
acceptable and always
appreciated by the wom-
an of refinement and
taste. No perfect toilet
can be made without one
so give a mirror and you
are sure to be on the
safe side. 50c and up.

CRANE'S
Drug Store

See Your Dollars Pile up for Christmas Here's the Way to Get Them Join Our

Christmas Savings Club

We are ready now for the enrollment of members. Regular date for start-
ing the club is Dec. 17th. It offers an exceptional opportunity for you to accu-
mulate a fund for Christmas or other uses.

IT'S FREE! NO FEES! NO FINES! NOTHING TO LOSE!

Here's the Plan Come and tell us what class you want to join
(you may join as many classes as you wish) and
pay the first week's amount. We will give you a patented deposit bank card
and full instructions. Then each week you pay in the proper amount for the
required number of weeks and receive a check before Christmas for the
amount you have saved.

Our Christmas Savings Club SYSTEMATIZES YOUR SAVINGS. It's a
cooperative plan. "In union there is strength." "Many hands make light
work." So with this club. You get the benefit of a great organization enjoy-
ing all the advantages of the most approved banking system.

See How Your Savings Grow

The 1c Class will amount to	\$12.75
The 2c class will amount to	\$25.50
The 5c class will amount to	\$63.75
The 10c class will amount to	\$127.05

We have the above classes in reducing amounts; also the 10c, 25c, 50c,
\$1.00 and \$2.00 straight weekly payment classes.

You May Join Now

You may join as many classes as you wish.

If for any reason you should not keep up your payments YOU WILL GET
BACK EVERY CENT PAID IN. You may pay in advance if you wish. JOIN
THIS CLUB YOURSELF. Get your family and friends to join also. COME
TO THE BANK AND LET US EXPLAIN ANYTHING YOU WISH TO
KNOW. This is the BEST way. Get the saving habit—it's a good one.

The Peoples National Bank
OF FAIRMONT

RUFF STUFF

Still waiting in Europe for the
Kaiser's new peace offer.

Also for his new offensive.

Maybe they are one and the same
thing.

Starting the biggest push of the war
may be the Teut idea of getting the
boys out of the trenches by Christmas.

Doc Garfield wants the miners to
work through the holidays.

Will Doc guarantee to have the cars
on hand if the men work?

Dry forces in the House yesterday
had just eight more votes than they
needed.

And the wets could not spring that
good old Ohio gag that the Hamilton
county voting machines made a mis-
take in the count.

How the Ohio dries will go at the job
of lining up their state on the side of
the amendment!

Well, lightless nights will save some
gas and that will help.

And it will be more evidence that we
are willing to do anything we are ask-